

December 5, 2013

Please note that news sites update their hyperlinks, so it is advised that articles of interest be read soon as they might not be accessible later.

Detroit Legal News: MSC names panel to ensure interpreters in court are qualified

"Looking to make sure people with limited ability to speak English have consistent, meaningful access to Michigan courts, the Michigan Supreme Court Tuesday named nine members to the new Foreign Language Board of Review. The panel was created under the Court's interpreter rule issued in September, which calls for all Michigan courts to provide foreign language interpreters to people with limited English proficiency."

[Full story](#)

Note: The article also ran in the Macomb County Legal News.

Also see:

Michigan Supreme Court names nine-member panel to ensure court interpreters are qualified to assist non-English speakers

Foreign Language Board of Review to help implement new rule requiring all Michigan state courts to provide interpreters; consistent, meaningful access is goal

[Press release](#)

Washtenaw County Legal News: Michigan Adoption Day: Courthouse is a joyful place as new families are formed

"... National Adoption Day was celebrated around the country during the week of Thanksgiving. Eight families welcomed their new members in brief hearings in courtrooms adorned with balloons and teddy bears [at the Washtenaw County Courthouse on Tuesday November 26]."

[Full story](#)

The Detroit News: Mich. House unanimously approves Court of Claims fix-up bill

"The state House unanimously approved a bill Wednesday aimed at fixing faulty and hastily adopted November legislation transferring the state's Court of Claims from Ingham County to the Michigan Court of Appeals. The proposal would make it clear that citizens still have a right to jury trials in several categories of cases that are being moved to the Court of Appeals under legislation signed into law three weeks ago by Gov. Rick Snyder."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

Associated Press: House votes to ensure jury trials in state suits

[Full story](#)

Note: This Associated Press article also ran in the Detroit Free Press, the Battle Creek Enquirer, the Lansing State Journal, the Times Herald/Port Huron, Traverse City Record-Eagle, WILX-TV(10)/Lansing and other media outlets.

MLive.com: Jury trial rights in new Court of Claims cases reaffirmed by Michigan House vote

[Full story](#)

Detroit Free Press: Vote on medical marijuana bills allowing dispensaries, edibles, pharmacy sales on hold

"A vote on a trio of bills related to Michigan's Medical Marijuana Act probably won't happen until next year. But that didn't stop a couple hundred people affected by the law from cramming into three

committee rooms Thursday to voice their support and concerns about the bills during a meeting of the House Judiciary Committee."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

MLive.com: Michigan bills would allow medical marijuana dispensaries, edibles that courts prohibited

[Full story](#)

Ann Arbor Chronicle: County "Peacekeeping Court" Gets Funding

"At their Dec. 4, 2013 meeting, Washtenaw County commissioners authorized acceptance of a \$150,000 grant to establish the Washtenaw County Trial Court's Peacemaking Court. The grant, awarded by the State Court Administrator's Office, is for funding from Oct. 1, 2013 through Sept. 30, 2014. The state grants are intended to support creative approaches in the court system."

[Full story](#)

Deadline Detroit: Could Missing Photos Free Convicted Murderer?

"It took years of repeated requests to get the information that should have been readily available under Michigan's Freedom of Information Act, but Frederick Freeman's support team finally got ahold of the photographs used, in part, to convict him of murder. And now the Michigan Supreme Court has ordered that a trial court consider the photos in a hearing to decide whether Freeman, currently doing life in prison, deserves a new trial."

[Full story](#)

Hometown Life Newspapers: Novi judge runs rogue court, says prosecutor; Cooper: He throws out cases improperly

"The Oakland County Prosecutor's Office is accusing a Novi District Court judge of breaking the law by falsifying court records, improperly dismissing cases and concealing public documents. In a 238-page complaint, Prosecutor Jessica Cooper charged that 52nd District Judge Brian MacKenzie is running a rogue court."

[Full story](#)

Also see:

WXYZ-TV(7)/Detroit: Oakland County prosecutor says Novi judge violated law, fabricated records

[Full story](#)

Hometown Life Newspapers: 528 probationers pass Westland court's random alcohol test

"Forty-nine probationers will have to explain to the judges of Westland's 18th District Court why they failed to show up for random alcohol testing on Wednesday, Nov. 27. In an effort to protect the public and ensure compliance with probation orders, 577 probationers were scheduled for the testing between 6 and 11:30 p.m."

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: Hon. Richard J. Garcia Appointed Chief Judge of Ingham Probate Court

"Judge Richard J. Garcia, of Lansing, has been appointed by the Michigan Supreme Court as the Chief Judge of Ingham County Probate Court for a two-year term beginning January 1, 2014. Judge R. George Economy, the current Chief Judge, will serve as Chief until the end of the year and then will continue in the New Year as a judge of the two-judge court."

[Full story](#)

Ingham County Legal News: Friends of Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court receive grant

"Friends of the Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court are thankful for the 2013 grant from the Ingham County Bar Foundation and SCAO. The Ingham County Bar Foundation approved a grant to the Friends of the Ingham County Veterans Treatment Court for \$1,000.00.... The State Court Administrator's Office provided a grant in the amount of \$65,000.00 as well."

[Full story](#)

Midland Daily News: Carpenter appointed by Gov. Snyder as Midland County district court judge

"Midland County Prosecutor Mike Carpenter has been appointed the county's next district court judge, filling a vacancy left by a retirement. Gov. Rick Snyder made the announcement today.... He fills a vacancy created by the retirement of Judge John Hart and must seek election in November 2014 to serve a two-year term."

[Full story](#)

Traverse City Record-Eagle: Stowe sentenced to jail

"Cynthia Stowe's tearful apology and admission that she has an alcohol problem couldn't keep her out of jail. Stowe, 52, of Florida, is the ex-wife of former Grand Traverse County Probate Court Judge David Stowe. Two years of alcohol-fueled run-ins with the law ended this week when 86th District Court Judge Michael Stepka handed down a year-long jail sentence on a second-offense drunken driving charge."

[Full story](#)

WJBK-TV(2)/Detroit: 42 arrested in massive Detroit police sweep 'Operation Super Six'

"'Keep up the good work' says John Hodge who was arrested in a Detroit Police sweep operation. He's in handcuffs, but even he is grateful that someone is finally trying to clean up his neighborhood.... Hodge is one of 42 arrested during a massive sweep at the King Homes apartments near downtown Detroit."

[Full story](#)